

**East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, July 13, 2010**

**Town Council Chambers**

**125 Main Street**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**6:00p.m. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) Superintendent Evaluation; Potential Litigation; Custodian Contract Mediator's Recommendation**

**7:00p.m. Regular Session**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**On July 13, 2010 School Committee meeting was held at the East Greenwich Town Hall. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Vice-chair Anne Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. All present were Susan Records; Robert Durant; Mary Ellen Winters; Deidre Gifford; and Paul Martin as well as Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration and Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent of Schools. Chair Jean Ann Guiliano was not present.**

**At 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Winters left the meeting.**

**Mrs. Winters returned at 7:34 P.M.**

**Mrs. Palumbo, School Committee Vice-Chair addressed the public and stated the following: “We have voted to ratify the mediated proposal between the East Greenwich School Committee and the East Greenwich Custodian/Maintenance Association subject to ratification by the Union.” The vote was unanimous.**

## **II. Public Comments – There were no public comments**

## **III. Superintendent’s Report**

**Dr. Mercurio stated that he would make a brief update regarding the New England Tech. partnership. We will tour the existing facility in August and will tour the new facility in the early fall. We are looking forward to our meetings and the technology that will be brought to the table. They have 40 computer labs. We would like to suggest to them when designing their athletic fields to add a swimming pool. East Greenwich does not have a swimming pool. I would like to congratulate Mrs. Mateer on her participation in the East Greenwich High School 30th year reunion gathering. It was well received and well attended.**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

**a. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Gifford the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 18 Executive Session and June 22 and June 24, 2010 Regular and Executive Sessions. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **V Action Items**

### **a. Appointment**

**1. A motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Gifford to table the**

**appointment of the Maintenance Worker, East Greenwich Public Schools,**

**effective 7-1-10 The motion passed unanimously.**

### **b. Retirement**

**1. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant the Committee voted unanimously to approve the retirement of George Dziekiewicz, Custodian at Frenchtown School, effective June 30, 2010**

### **c. Resignation**

**On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Records the Committee**

**voted unanimously to approve the following resignations:**

**1. Gregory DeCubellis, from 0.4 English Department Head position, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year**

**2. Krista Harvey, co-advisor to the class of 2011**

**3. Lori Patnaude, co-advisor to the Class of 2011, effective 6-20-10**

### **d. High School Schedule Revision**

**Mr. Podraza, High School Assistant Principal, presented a new high school schedule revision. He stated that there has not been a change in the schedule in over 20 years. Our students are fully stressed with**

all the pressures of their workload. What they don't need is another high school course. The lunch hour was too short and needed to be lengthened. We had a missing component – goals to meet mandate (2012) from RIDE- of common planning time twice a week. Our new schedule on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays will include 340 instructional minutes, with a 25-minute lunch. On Wednesdays there will be 305 instructional minutes. We will have instruction common planning time from 7:30-8:00 A.M. Everyone will attend 75-minute advisory. Lunch will be shorter, 20 minutes. Arrival time on Wednesdays will be 7:45 A.M. School day starts at 8:08 A.M. The arrival is early due to bus scheduling. Paraprofessionals will monitor students. Also, the paraprofessional will monitor the students' lunch while staff is attending advisory. Students are crying out for this time. There will be a common planning theme for each quarter.

Mr. Durant commented that Mr. Podraza's presentation was very comprehensive. He asked if this new schedule was okay with the Union.

Mr. Podraza said, "Yes. 74.2% approval. We may need to obtain a memoranda of agreement on minutes."

Mr. Martin asked what were some of the objections from staff with new schedule.

Mr. Podraza stated that there were some questions from the Physical

**Education/Health Department Head, Teddy Davis. She stated that on Wednesdays she would incorporate different activities. Mr. Podraza also stated that there is a potential for kids to leave after lunch.**

**Mrs. Gifford asked that the current lunch time is 20 minutes, so you have added 5 minutes.**

**Mrs. Podraza said, “Yes, with 5 minutes passing time.”**

**Mrs. Gifford asked whether this schedule has been passed by the students.**

**Mrs. Podraza, said, “No.”**

**Mrs. Records asked about the instructional time, mainly in math.**

**Mr. Podraza stated that over the 7 days there is the same amount of instructional time.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Gifford the Committee voted unanimously to approve the high school schedule revision.**

**e. ESCO Update**

**Mr. Mark Lucas, of Schneider Electric, stated to the School Committee that they are one-half way through their audit of the high**

school and four elementary schools. Schneider Electric selected on-site analysis within the five schools. We collected all utility bills. Three separate engineers looked at every room, occupation of rooms and energy usage. Lighting, heating and air conditioning, window and door weather stripping, and water usage were all examined. Most of the schools have light fixtures that are old. The building committee recommends that we finish our study. Funding is available through rebates from utilities, first round of ARRA, \$165,000.00, Mr. Wilmarth applying for federal grant of \$500,000.00, RIDE subsidies, all districts in RI will be applying. The decision will be in August and we should find out how much East Greenwich will be receiving. The lighting in the high school and Eldredge are the oldest and in need of replacement. There is original equipment there from the 60's and 70's. Utilities companies will help with rebates.

Mrs. Gifford stated that she was confused with the partnership with Schneider Electric.

Mr. Lucas stated that we are offering a design for energy savings. We want the opportunity to talk with you about the energy savings.

Mrs. Gifford said, "There is no agreement on the table, John?"

Mr. Winikur said, "No agreement."

Mr. Lucas stated that Schneider Electric would like to finish the audit

and then decide where to go from there.

Mr. Winikur stated that there will be no binding agreement.

Mrs. Gifford asked if they could put the audit out to bid.

Mr. Lucas said, "Yes, you can."

Mrs. Gifford stated to Mr. Lucas that she would like a two-month timeline.

Mr. Lucas said that there was a discussion with the school district regarding

a fifteen-year financing, so there should be no surprises in our proposal.

Mrs. Gifford stated that she made a comment to her colleagues that right from

the beginning she felt that we did not do enough research on what we were

getting into. We need to review everything before us before we get in any

more agreements.

Mr. Lucas stated that he would like to work with the Committee. He wants

**everyone to be comfortable.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters  
the**

**Committee voted unanimously to research the audit before making  
any more**

**commitments with Schneider Electric.**

**f. Facilities rental policy**

**Mrs. Palumbo asked Mr. Wilmarth whether East Greenwich had a  
separate**

**contract for churches?**

**Mr. Wilmarth responded, “No., the rental process is the same.”**

**Mr. Durant stated that his issue is our buildings becoming the  
permanent home**

**of a church or organization. For example, the New Life Church.  
We don’t**

**want them saying that this is their permanent location with  
advertisements or  
signs.**

**Mrs. Gifford stated that it is made clear to anyone renting  
the East Greenwich**

**Rental Policy.**



**g. Policy on process for hiring administrators**

**Mrs. Records stated that she had some concerns about the number from each**

**discipline on the past screening committees. There should be equal**

**representation from each. Concerns on this did go to Dr. Mercurio.**

**Mr. Durant stated that every effort should be made to be balanced. However,**

**there should be some flexibility from the superintendent. In the end it should**

**be the superintendent's call. Depending on the position, he may decided to**

**use less of one and more of another.**

**Mrs. Gifford stated that the superintendent shall establish a screening**

**committee, and shall assign to the screening committee candidates for Level 1**

**interviews. In Level 2 the superintendent shall interview recommended**

**candidates from screening committee (not bound by these recommendations)**

**and then makes his recommendation to the School**

**Committee which**

**candidate(s) they should interview. The School Committee will interview the**

**candidate(s) in Executive Session, unless the candidates request an open**

**session interview. No names will be published and vote will take place in**

**Executive Session.**

**Mrs. Palumbo asked, “What if there are two candidates, then I would think we**

**would need to make a recommendation to Dr. Mercurio?”**

**Dr. Mercurio stated that in the past, I have recommended a candidate to the**

**School Committee. The Committee will make the choice. I can recommend**

**candidate(s)**

**Mr. Martin stated, “Why have a School Committee member of the screening**

**committee and then have the Committee make a final vote?**

**Dr. Mercurio stated that he has done it both ways, being involved with sub-**

**committee and committee. It is a connecting piece.**

**Mrs. Winters stated that she did not think there was a need for a School**

**Committee member o be on the Screening Committee.**

**Mr. Durant said, “Yes, we do, for continuity.”**

**Mr. Martin asked why the PTG was eliminated from the policy.**

**Mrs. Gifford stated because we have a parent or guardian.**

**Mr. Martin asked, “It was previously PTG?”**

**“Yes,” said Mrs. Gifford.**

#### **h. Policy for appointment of Advisory Committees**

### **VI. Discussion Items**

#### **a. Technology Report**

**Dr. Mercurio stated that Mrs. Records and he will be getting together to go over technical strategic plan the end of next week.**

#### **b. 2010 Budget**

**Dr. Mercurio had no comment**

### **c. Building Project Change Orders**

**Mr. Winikur addressed the Committee to introduce Mr. Ken Romeo. Mr. Romeo will present a brief update on the progress of the building process.**

**Mr. Romeo stated that the masons, electricians, plumbers and pipe fitters were at the middle school. At the tennis and basketball courts there is soil underneath that should not be there. The high school has been upgraded to phase II—furniture and ceiling fixtures.**

**Mr. Durant asked whether we are still on schedule with the high school and middle school for April 2011.**

**Mr. Romeo said, “Yes.”**

**Mr. Winikur stated that with the new bill introduced, we may see an increase in funds -30%-40% reimbursement. 2011-Middle School-40% category. I do not have specific dates, but we may have one or two million extra for project. I would suggest that we put aside one million for potential problems.**

**Mr. Romeo stated that there is a 1 to -2 1/2 million repair issue at MBF. The study is on-going. There is also a roof issue at the high school. There are leaks everywhere--the cost 1 to 1 1/2 million. There are significant priority building issues at Frenchtown, Meadowbrook, and Hanaford at a cost of 8 million. I will not have any firm numbers**

**on the energy update on Meadowbrook for a few months.**

**Mrs. Gifford stated that she has had discussions with other School Committee members regarding her concerns about the debt services for next year. We will be facing a more difficult situation next year. We need to see the operation cost from the Town Council. We need to meet with the Town Council to get some direction.**

**d. School Committee Candidates running as non-partisan**

**Mr. Martin suggested to table until after election**

## **VII. School Committee Concerns**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Gifford the Committee**

**voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Margaret Ucci**